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LETTER DATED 16 FEBRUARY 1994 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ARMENIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of a statement issued on 14 February 1994 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia.

I should be grateful if you would circulate the statement as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Alexander ARZOUMANIAN
Permanent Representative

Annex

Statement dated 14 February 1994 issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Armenia with regard to new developments in the Nagorny Karabakh conflict

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia is deeply concerned with new and dangerous developments in the region as a result of Azerbaijan's new strategy to implement its old policy of imposing a military solution on the Nagorny Karabakh conflict.

In mid-December 1993, Azerbaijan launched a new large-scale offensive on Nagorny Karabakh which continues unabated. As a result of this new offensive, thousands of people have died, among them a large number of civilians, as Azerbaijanis bombard indiscriminately the civilian centres of Nagorny Karabakh and the border regions of the Republic of Armenia.

Consistent with its recent intransigent position with regard to peace efforts, Azerbaijan has rejected the most recent Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) Minsk Group peace plan, to which both Armenia and Nagorny Karabakh responded positively, has refused to accept the effort of the Russian Federation to establish a cease-fire and has ignored the appeal of the Chairman of the International Olympic Committee for a temporary cease-fire during the Winter Olympic Games.

Furthermore, as part of the policy of seeking a military solution, Azerbaijan has been using delay tactics and, for the second time in two weeks, caused the postponement of the planned visit of the new Chairman of the CSCE Minsk Group to the region.

The Ministry is particularly concerned with Azerbaijan's continuing efforts to further escalate the conflict. During the past few months, Azerbaijan has successfully internationalized the Nagorny Karabakh conflict by involving non-Azerbaijani arms, mercenaries and advisors, and, more recently, has used third-country territories to launch attacks on the Republic of Armenia. On 11 February 1994, two Azerbaijani military aircraft used Iranian airspace to encroach on Armenia's southern region and drop several demolition bombs, causing destruction and casualties among the civilian population.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia expresses its disappointment regarding the failure of the United Nations, CSCE and the international community to condemn Azerbaijan's violation of relevant Security Council resolutions and international norms of behaviour.